

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 26 Aug. 1952

SUBJECT Reception Homes for Stray Children

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF INFO.

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)PLACE
ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NQ.

25X1X

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

*Not graded

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

1. The Detpriyemnik (Detskii priyemnik = reception home for children) is a central point to which stray children (besprizorniki) who have been picked up by the militia are brought for processing and disposal. The Soviet government created these Detpriyemniks to cope with the problem which became acute during and immediately after the war. I think that the Detpriyemniks existed before the war, but I first heard of them [redacted] in Sverdlovsk in 1944. 25X1
[redacted] Children are committed to the Detpriyemnik nearest to the place they are caught. In 1946, Sverdlovsk had four Detpriyemniks each of which had from 800 to 1,000 children. In February 1952, [redacted] only one was operating and it housed only about 150 children. I do not know what the situation is in other cities, but I imagine that the number has decreased elsewhere just as it has in Sverdlovsk.
2. The Detpriyemnik [redacted] was called Detpriyemnik No.1, UMVD (Upravleniye Ministerstva Vnutrennykh Del-Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs), and was located about 7 km from Sverdlovsk. As far as I could determine, the MVD had only a rather tenuous connection with the Detpriyemnik; [redacted] I did not hear of a single instance in which the MVD interfered with its administration. 25X1

CLASSIFIED

SECRET

25X1

[illegible]

SECRET

25X1

-2-

3. The administrative staff consisted of about 90 people in 1949, but there were less than half this number in February 1952. Besides the director and several deputies who attended to such matters as food and supply, general housekeeping, library, etc, there was an accountant, a bookkeeper, a doctor, numerous governesses, repair men, laborers, drivers, and female guards. The Detpriyemnik was comprised of about 11 buildings and occupied an area roughly equivalent to a city block. The entire area was surrounded by a wooden wall with several strands of barbed wire on top and was guarded by women who carried wooden clubs. Funds for the maintenance of the Detpriyemnik were obtained from the Gosbank in Sverdlovsk; I had heard that in 1948 the Detpriyemnik expended more than half a million rubles. Clothing and some of the food were drawn from city warehouses. There was a plot of land of about seven hectares where only potatoes were raised for consumption by the Detpriyemnik. This land was worked principally by the children. Food was also received from a kolkhoz in exchange for light farming work done by about 50 children, mostly girls, who were sent to the kolkhoz every summer.
4. Children up to 16 years of age were accepted by the Detpriyemnik, most of them being boys. Since the Detpriyemnik was a reception and processing center and not an educational or training center, the turnover was very high. In one day as many as 100-150 children might leave and an equal number be brought in by the militia. Children rarely remain there for more than two weeks.

25X1X

If a child's parents are living, attempts are made to locate them and return the child; if negligence by the parents can be proven, a fine is often levied against them. Those children who are parentless are disposed of in several ways, according to their age. The 15- and 16-year-olds are invariably sent to a FZO; however, some of the 16-year-olds go directly to work in some plant. The 14-year-old children are usually sent to an apprentice (remeslenny) school. Children 13 years old and younger are sent to a Detdom (Detskiy dom -- Children's home). Those children over 12 years of age, however, who were apprehended for committing a serious crime, are sent to a camp for juvenile delinquents (Detskaya koloniya).

5. The facilities of the Detpriyemnik [] were inadequate to accommodate the tremendous flow of children during the years 1945-48, compelling a doubling up in sleeping quarters. This situation was gradually alleviated through the years, because of the small number of children wandering about as besprizorniki, until there were only about 150 children [] in February 1952. There were no organized activities outside of the reading of stories by governesses. The day usually started at 0800 (0700 during the summer) and after a few minutes physical training exercises and a general cleaning of quarters, the children had breakfast. Lunch was at 1300, dinner at 1900, and bedtime at 2100. The daily ration was usually not sufficient for the older children. It usually consisted of bread, cabbage, gruel, potatoes, meat (once a day), butter (once a day), and, on infrequent occasions, milk. What recreation there was consisted of checkers, dominoes, and chess. A library containing books, magazines, and newspapers was also available. Movies were shown very infrequently, usually on holidays. At no time was permission granted to leave the grounds. Baths were given once every 10 days in 1948. A doctor was assigned to the Detpriyemnik to handle mild illnesses. If a child became seriously ill, he was sent to the city hospital.

25X1

25X1X

SECRET